

Garfield County

FACTS



Updated February 2009

Population

As of July 1st	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Population	4,625	4,703	4,772	4,872	5,044
% Change of the Prior Year	2.1%	1.7%	1.5%	2.1%	0.0%

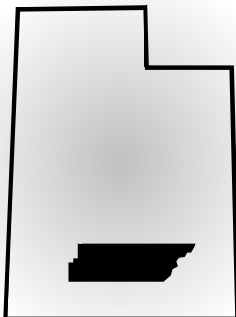
Source: Utah Population Estimates Committee. <http://governor.utah.gov/dea/datatables.html>

City Population

As of July 1st	2007
Antimony	112
Boulder	178
Cannonville	135
Escalante	744
Hatch	115
Henrieville	144
Panguitch	1,473
Tropic	464

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

<http://www.census.gov/popest/cities>



Labor Force

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007p
Labor Force	2,564	2,670	2,709	2,677	2,767
Employed	2,334	2,459	2,511	2,543	2,635
Unemployed	230	211	198	134	132
Rate	9.0%	7.9%	7.3%	5.0%	4.8%
Nonfarm Jobs	2,075	2,178	2,236	2,260	2,340
%Chng Prior Year	-0.6%	5.0%	2.7%	1.1%	3.5%
Mining	9	7	7	12	11
Construction	63	86	73	83	86
Manufacturing	97	113	110	98	95
Trade/Trans/Utilities	214	229	215	239	248
Information	118	119	122	126	130
Financial Activities	27	32	33	35	33
Profess/Business Svcs	15	9	11	17	17
Ed/Health/Social Svcs	146	160	187	207	244
Leisure/Hospitality	759	795	859	821	854
Other Services	28	27	26	27	27
Government	599	598	593	595	597
Total Establishments	227	223	233	252	240
Total Wages (\$Millions)	41.8	47.0	48.5	51.7	56.4

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information.

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoLaborforce.do>

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoIndustry.do>

Garfield County depends more on tourism and recreation for employment than any other county in the state. With Bryce Canyon and Lake Powell, the county attracts many, many visitors each year. Garfield County exhibits one of the highest unemployment rates in the state due to the seasonal nature of the tourist economy.

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Garfield County

—Bucking the job trend

With an economy heavily dependent on tourism, Garfield County often suffers from downturns in the national business cycle, or even just a large increase in the price of gasoline. After a very slow 2006, jobs increased at a moderate rate during 2007. But like most of Utah, decreased construction permitting activity put a drag on the economy.

Population

In 2007, Garfield County's population grew by about 2.1 percent to reach almost 4,900 individuals. While the county has experienced net in-migration in the past four years, its rate of population growth remained far below the state average of 3.2 percent. According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, the county's towns have grown little, if at all. Most of the expansion occurred in unincorporated areas.

The Labor Market

Garfield County's leisure/hospitality industry accounts for the highest nonfarm employment share of any county in Utah. Almost 40 percent of the county's jobs can be categorized in this industry. This heavy dependence on tourism is reflected in much of the county's labor market activity.

For example, even in good economic years, Garfield County's unemployment rate ranks as one of the highest in the state. In 2007, Garfield County's jobless rate measured 4.8 percent—third highest in the state. The seasonality of the tourism-related industries means many workers are unemployed for part of every year—which perennially drives up the county's unemployment rate. In reality, 4.8 percent is a very low unemployment rate for Garfield County. In the 90s, joblessness reached as high as 13 percent.

After marginal employment growth in 2006, Garfield County's 2007 employment expansion popped up to a nice moderate 3.6 percent rate. In general, most Utah counties' experienced slower rather than faster growth during 2007.

When it came to creating jobs, private education/health/social services and

leisure/hospitality services generated the lion's share of Garfield County new employment during 2007. Other industries experienced few job gains or even minor losses.

Wages

Coincidentally, Garfield County's 2007 average monthly nonfarm wage measured \$2,007. That healthy 5-percent expansion proved sufficient to more than outpace inflation

However, because of the lower-paying nature of many of the county's jobs and their seasonality, Garfield County's average monthly wage measured only 66 percent of the state average and ranks as the fourth-lowest average monthly wage in the Utah. The information industry produced the highest Garfield County average monthly wage in 2007—but, very few jobs. Next in the wage ranking came government. Only the leisure/hospitality industry demands higher average monthly wages than the state average.

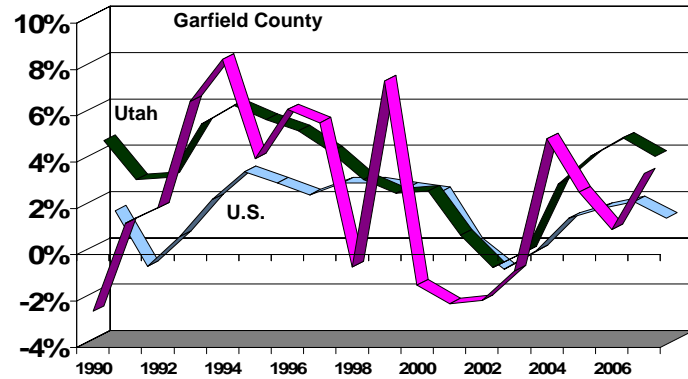
Other Indicators

As in many other locales, construction permitting activity slipped. However, the value of residential permits hit an all-time high in 2007. Cabins and manufactured homes accounted for more than half of these permits. Total values dropped 23 percent on a decline in nonresidential construction. Much of the growth occurred outside the major townships. Like jobs, gross taxable sales took the moderate path with a 5-percent annual increase.

Into 2008. . .

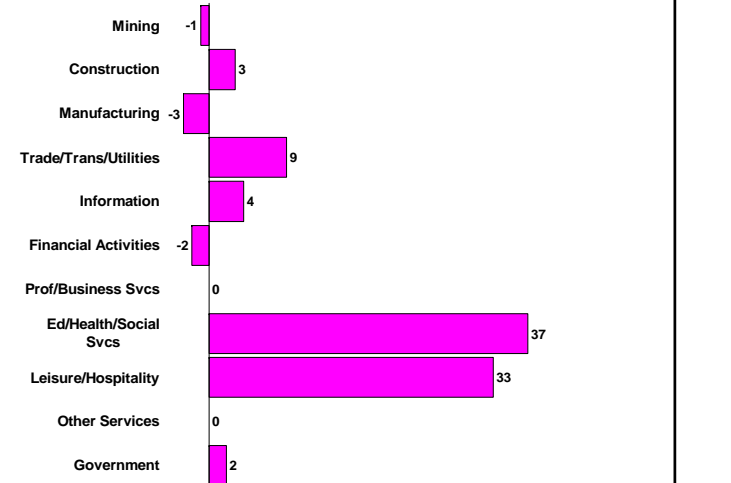
Garfield County's nonfarm job growth slowed dramatically to 1.5 percent during the first three months of 2008. However, it does remain one of only two counties in the five-county region to actually show employment gains. Unfortunately, ballooning gasoline prices will continue to affect this tourism-dependent county as the year progresses.

Garfield County Nonfarm Jobs



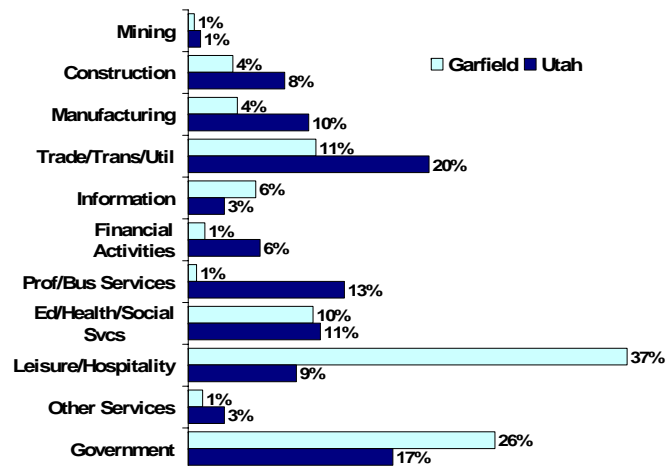
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

2007 Garfield County Numeric Change in Jobs by Industry



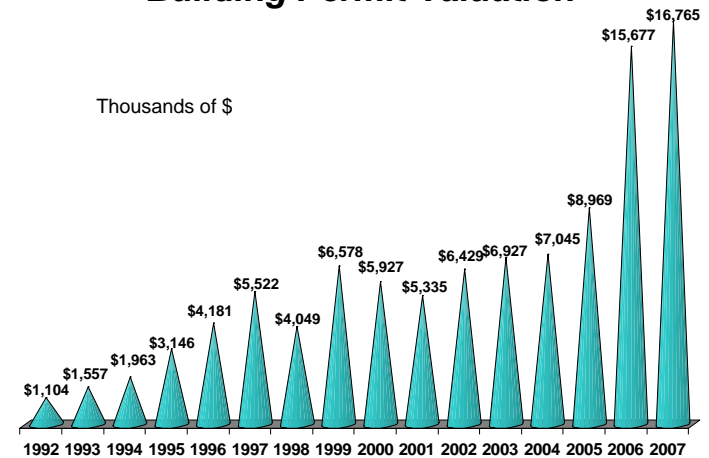
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

2007 Nonfarm Job Distribution by Industry*



*Does NOT include covered agriculture.
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

Garfield County New Residential Building Permit Valuation



Source: Utah Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

Income and Wages

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007p
Total Personal Income (\$Millions)	90.8	97.2	104.2	109.4	NA
Per Capita Income	20,344	22,227	23,986	24,836	NA
Median Household Income Estimates	34,910	37,454	38,751	40,269	41,553
Average Monthly Nonfarm Wage	1,678	1,787	1,806	1,908	2,007

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau, Utah Department of Workforce Services.

<http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saiper/>

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoIndustry.do>

Sales and Building

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008p
Gross Taxable Sales (\$000s)	77,649	79,464	83,538	95,299	NA
Permit Authorized Construction (\$000)	10,189	11,633	25,876	19,999	27,603
New Residential Building Permits	54	61	86	139	60
Residential Build Permits Value (\$000)	7,045	8,969	15,677	16,765	11,984

Source: Utah Tax Commission and University of Utah Bureau of Economic and Business Research.

<http://tax.utah.gov/esu/income>

<http://www.business.utah.edu/bebr/>

Demographics

	2000
Under 18	32.6%
65 years and over	14.1%
Median Age	33.8
Persons per Household	2.92
Persons per Family	3.43
Female-Headed Families	8.9%
High School Graduates	85.8%
College Graduates	20.3%
Labor Force	
Female Participation	58.7%
Male Participation	68.5%
Self-Employed	10.1%
Commute Time (minutes)	13.9
Median Family Income	\$40,192
Median Earnings	
Male, full-time, year-rnd	\$30,239
Female, full-time, yr-rnd	\$20,408
Persons Below Poverty	8.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

Largest Employers

Ruby's Inn
 Garfield School District
 South Central Utah Telephone
 Garfield Memorial Hospital
 Federal Government
 Garfield County
 State of Utah
 Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Inc
 Clarkes Country Market
 Skyline Forest Resources, Inc.
 Turn About Ranch
 Offshore Marina
 Silverado Boys Ranch
 Bryce Canyon Resort
 Bryce Canyon Pines

Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services.

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoCounties.do>

Other

Population by Race	2000
White	93.8%
Black	0.2%
American Indian	1.6%
Asian	0.4%
Pacific Islanders	0.0%
Other	1.2%
Hispanic/All Races	2.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

For More Information . . .



Utah Department of Workforce Services
 Lecia Parks Langston 435/688-3115 lecialangston@utah.gov
jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi

